

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 866

By Wilder

A RESOLUTION to honor, support, and thank the soldiers of the HHSB, 2-115 Field Artillery Battalion, Forward Deployment, Tennessee Army National Guard of Henderson for their meritorious service in Operation Enduring Freedom.

WHEREAS, our Nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the "Volunteer State" is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, established in 1887 by an act of the 45th General Assembly, the Tennessee National Guard is a dedicated collection of the finest men and women this State has to offer. Always vigilant and prepared for duty, the Tennessee National Guard has proven time and again its ability to protect fellow Tennesseans and Americans and those around the world in need of aid; and

WHEREAS, and while the heroic deeds of Tennesseans have been extolled throughout the history of our State and Nation, thousands of our citizens continue the time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Tennessee National Guard today; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Tennessee National Guard selflessly serve with courage and gallantry and deserve to be recognized for heroism in the line of duty and model citizenship in our American society; and

WHEREAS, the soldiers of HHSB, 2-115 Field Artillery Battalion, Forward Deployment, Tennessee Army National Guard, headquartered in Henderson under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Cunningham, are especially deserving of our deepest admiration and thanks for their valiant service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; and

WHEREAS, mobilized on March 16, 2004, HHSB, 2-115 Field Artillery Battalion, Forward Deployment, Tennessee Army National Guard has proudly carried forward and enhanced this State's reputation for bravery and volunteerism throughout its exemplary term of service in Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, these intrepid men and women from Tennessee are unselfishly paying the price of freedom for their friends, families, and all of us as they sacrifice their time, safety, and personal desires; and

WHEREAS, proudly upholding the ideal of the citizen soldier, an essential tradition of American society, these gallant soldiers are serving on our behalf, boldly and without hesitation or complaint, just as they have left behind the enduring warmth of family and home; and

WHEREAS, their courageous service stands as an enduring example of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our Nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, we extend our most heartfelt support and empathy to the families of HHSB, 2-115 Field Artillery Battalion, Forward Deployment, Tennessee Army National Guard; we stand in solidarity with them, offering space in our hearts and moments in our days to remember their loved ones serving so far from home; and

WHEREAS, though we cannot adequately express our appreciation to the courageous men and women of HHSB, 2-115 Field Artillery Battalion, Forward Deployment, Tennessee

Army National Guard who are engaged in preserving the blessed freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor them to the full extent of our ability, as they are making untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we express our stalwart support for and express our deepest pride in the members of HHSB, 2-115 Field Artillery Battalion, Forward Deployment, Tennessee Army National Guard of Henderson as they serve and defend this State, our Nation, and the world as a whole as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, extend to them our sincere hope for a swift and peaceful tour of duty filled with honor, and offer our fervent prayers for the safe return of these soldiers to their homes and families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.